

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 5, 10 and 15 are currently being cancelled.

Claims 1, 6 and 11 are currently being amended.

Claims 16-21 are currently being added.

This amendment adds, cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending, canceling and adding the claims as set forth above, claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11-14 and 16-21 are now pending in this application.

Specification Amendments:

The specification has been amended to correct minor grammatical and typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,878,419 to Carter. This rejection is traversed with respect to the presently pending claims under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

In its rejection of claims 1-15 based on Carter, the Office Action essentially asserts that Carter teaches a hierarchical storage system for storing EDI data. However, nowhere does Carter disclose or suggest that each of the extracted data stored in the memory is assigned an attribute that is also stored in the memory and that is linked to each of the extracted data, and

wherein the at least one functional group and the at least one transaction set extracted from the EDI document are stored in the memory with a common attribute, whereby these features have been incorporated into presently pending independent claim 1 (and to the other presently pending independent claims 6 and 11 in a manner conducive to the ‘type’ of those

claims). Accordingly, presently pending independent claims 1, 6 and 11, as well as the presently pending dependent claims under rejection, are not anticipated by Carter.

New Claims:

New claims 16-21 have been added to recite additional features of the present invention that are believed to provide a separate basis of patentability of those claims, beyond the reasons provided above for their respective base claim (1, 6 or 11). In particular, claims 16, 18 and 20 recite:

providing a **graphical user interface to enable a user to select at least one attribute** to be retrieved from the memory in order to create an EDI document, and to enable the user to select a **particular document shell** for which the data retrieved from the memory is to be inputted;

extracting data from the memory based on the at least one attribute selected by the user; and

providing the extracted data into the particular document shell selected by the user, **to provide the EDI document for the user on the graphical user interface to allow for further editing and updating of the EDI document by the user.** The use of a graphical user interface to allow a user to start to create an EDI document (to then be further edited by the user) is not taught or suggested by Carter.

New claims 17, 19 and 21 recite:

storing the EDI document in the memory as a **document object having one or more attributes**;

storing any segments extracted from the EDI document as document segments in the memory **each having one or more attributes**;

storing any transaction sets extracted from the EDI document as transaction set segments in the memory **each having one or more attributes**; and

storing any functional groups extracted from the EDI document as functional group segments in the memory **each having one or more attributes.** The use of such object-oriented features for storing and retrieving data from a database is not disclosed or suggested by Carter.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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